

Message Text

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16

ACTION CU-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 /013 W
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R 040604Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2850

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS TAIPEI 5555

STATE FOR CU/CP

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION MANILA INFO USIA, SEOUL, HONGKONG
SEPT 3 REPEATED YOU:

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MARTHA GRAHAM

REF : MANILA R 230157Z AUG 74

1. THE 36-MEMBER MARTHA GRAHAM DANCE COMPANY HAS RECEIVED
WARM AUDIENCE REACTION AND WIDESPREAD MEDIA
ACCLAIM DURING FOUR HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL PERFORMANCES IN
TAIPEI.

2. A CAPACITY AUDIENCE OF 3,000 WATCHED THE COMPANY'S
DEBUT ON AUGUST 30 AT THE PRESTIGIOUS SUN YAT-SEN MEMORIAL
HALL, THE FIRST OF FOUR CONSECUTIVE EVENING PERFORMANCES
IN TAIWAN'S CAPITAL CITY. AMONG THE OPENING NIGHT AUDIENCE
WERE VICE PRESIDENT C. K. YEN, PREMIER CHIANG CHING-KUO
AND AMERICAN AMBASSADOR LEONARD UNGER, AND THEIR WIVES.
A FINAL PERFORMANCE WAS SCHEDULED IN TAICHUNG IN CENTRAL
TAIWAN ON SEPTEMBER 4. THE COMPANY IS ON A ASIAN TOUR
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UNDER SPONSORSHIP OF THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT.

3. ALL MAJOR MEDIA IN TAIPEI, INCLUDING THREE TELEVISION STATIONS, WARMLY APPLAUDED THE PERFORMANCES. AMONG THE COMMENTS WERE THE FOLLOWING;

4. CHINA TIMES - "A MARTHA GRAHAM PERFORMANCE CAN BE COMPARED WITH THE WORK OF MOZART OR BRAQUE. IT HAS ITS OWN STYLE, VERY GRAHAMIZED AND AMERICANIZED. ALTHOUGH MISS GRAHAM DID NOT PARTICIPATED IN ANY PERFORMANCE PERSONALLY, THE AUDIENCE STILL COULD SPOT HER PERSONALITY AND IMAGE THROUGH EVERY DANCER'S PERFORMANCE... MISS TAKAKO ASAKAWA IN HER ROLE AS MEDEA IN CAVE OF THE HEART DEMONSTRATED GRAHAM'S TECHNIQUES SO PERFECTLY WELL THAT THE AUDIENCE SAW MARTHA HERSELF DANCING INSTEAD OF ASAKAWA. AT THE END OF PERFORMANCE, WHEN MISS GRAHAM, DRESSED IN A LONG BLACK ROBE EMBROIDERED WITH SHINING GREEN STRIPES, APPEARED ON THE STAGE, THE AUDIENCE GAVE HER A STANDING OVATION. PROUDLY BUT GRACEFULLY SHE MADE A POLITE BOW AND WON A STORM OF APPLAUSE."

5. UNITED DAILY NEWS - "ITS SETTING IS SIMPLE, THE GROUP IS NOT GREAT IN NUMBER, BUT ITS PERFORMANCE, THE MOVEMENT OF THE DANCER'S BODY, LEFT THE AUDIENCE WITH AN UNFORGETTABLE MEMORY OF PUNGENCY AND BEAUTY."

6. CHINA DIALY NEWS - "THE WONDERFUL SHOW ACTUALLY MELTED THE MOVEMENTS AND THE MUSIC INTO ONE, WITH THE DANCERS EXERTING THEIR ACTIONS AND PASSIONS FULLY AND COMPLETELY. FACIAL EXPRESSION, BODY MOVEMENT AND MUSIC TOGETHER SPOKE OUT DANCER'S INNER FEELING."

7. CENTRAL DAILY NEWS - "THE OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES OF THE COMPANY GAVE THE AUDIENCE A NEW APPRECIATION OF AMERICAN MODERN DANCE. THEY WERE FILLED WITH INCESSANT SURPRISES OF THE IMAGINATIVE CREATION THAT CHARACTERIZED AMERICAN MODERN DANCE. WITH A RICH REPERTOIRE OF BEAUTIFUL MOVEMENTS, THE AUDIENCE NOTED A STRONG TOUCH OF ORIENTAL INFLUENCE... AS FOR THE STAGE TECHNIQUES, SHE INAUGURATED ORIENTAL SYMBOLIC PROPS AND SIMPLE SET PIECES WITH THE AID OF LEAVING THE AUDIENCE WITH ROOM FOR THEIR OWN IMAGINATION."

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8. CHINESE MINISTER OF EDUCATION Y.S. TSIANG PRESENTED MISS GRAHAM WITH A MEDAL OF ART AT A MINISTRY CEREMONY AUGUST 29 AND PRAISED HER DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENTS IN MODERN DANCE.

9. A LEADING CHINESE MODERN DANCER, LIN HWAI-MIN, TERMING MISS GRAHAM ONE OF THE LEADING PIONEERS OF

MODERN DANCE IN THE UNITED STATES, SAID SHE HAS "CAST
ASIDE ALL THE TRADITIONAL STEPS AND TECHNIQUES OF BALLET,
THE STRAIGHT LONG LEG AND THE POINTED TOE AND HAS
CREATED NEW STYLES AND TECHNIQUES OF MOVEMENT NEVER SEEN
BEFORE IN TAIPEI.

10. "ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT TECHNIQUES USED BY THE
DANCERS IS THE USE OF GROUND, THE KNEELING AND WALKING,
RISING AND SINKING, WHICH IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF
ORIENTAL DANCING," LIN ADDED. "BUT SHE IS NOT AN
IMITATOR OR ADAPTOR," LIN SAID. "FROM HER PERFORMANCES
IN TAIPEI, WE CAN RECOGNIZE THAT SHE HAS BEEN INFLUENCED
BY ORIENTAL DANCING, YET WHEN WE LOOKED CLOSELY INTO
HER TECHNIQUES, IT WAS NOT DIFFICULT TO FIND SPASMS
AND RESISTANCE IN HER MOVEMENT, THAT WERE NOT ORIENTAL."
CLARKE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TAIPEI05555
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740244-0675
From: TAIPEI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740974/aaaackzc.tel
Line Count: 131
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: MANILA R 230157Z AUG 74
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 APR 2002 by maustmc>; APPROVED <28 JAN 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MARTHA GRAHAM
TAGS: SCUL, TW, MARTHA GRAHAM DANCE COMPANY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005